[English]

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**Pension to Second World War Veterans**

5922. SHRI P.C.THOMAS:Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether second world war veterans who worked in our defence forces are entitled to pension;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is pressing demand for the grant of pension to them;

(d) if so, the response of the Government thereto; and

(e) how many persons are there now in the above category who took part in second world war?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) and (b). At the time of Second World War, a large number of Indians were recruited into the Army for the duration of the war plus 12 months thereafter. They were temporary employees and were demobilised after the war. Their service being non-pensionable , war gratuity/ service gratuity, as admissible, was paid to such recruits.

(c) and (d). Various Associations of the ex-Servicemen and certain individuals have been demanding grant of pension to World War II retrenches. It has not been feasible to grant pension to them under the provisions of the Pension Regulations, as their service was non-pensionable.

(e) No such statistics is maintained.

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**Defence Production Units in Uttar Pradesh**

5923. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to establish defence production units in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

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**Licences for Setting up Mini Yarn Mills**

5924. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to give licences for setting up new mini yarn mills; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) No specific proposal has been received by the Ministry of textiles for giving New Licences for mini yarn projects/mills/ factories.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

[Translation] Taxation

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**Excise Duty on Pre-Cast Concrete Tiles/Blocks**

5925. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government had issued orders for exempting pre-cast concrete tiles/blocks from excise duty till March, 1991, on the request of the Government of Rajasthan for the Indira Gandhi Canal Proj-